

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A topically applicable cosmetic/dermatological composition comprising (i) at least one hydrolase polypeptide having amidase activity, or precursor thereof, and (ii) at least one product capable of modulating the activity of said at least one hydrolase polypeptide (i), formulated into (iii) a topically applicable, physiologically acceptable medium therefor.
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2. The cosmetic/dermatological composition as defined by Claim 1, said at least one hydrolase polypeptide having amidase activity comprising a polypeptide having aspartylglucosaminidase activity, or precursor thereof.
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3. The cosmetic/dermatological composition as defined by Claim 2, said polypeptide having aspartylglucosaminidase activity being selected from the group consisting of:
 - (a) a polypeptide of human origin or a homologue of said polypeptide having aspartylglucosaminidase activity;
 - (b) an enzymatic or biomimetic analogue of said polypeptide (a), having aspartylglucosaminidase activity;
 - 20 (c) a fragment of said polypeptide (a), said fragment having aspartylglucosaminidase activity;
 - (d) a polypeptide or an enzymatic analogue or fragment of polypeptide (a), (b) or (c) in an active form of the heterodimer or heterotetramer type; and
 - (e) a modified polypeptide or a modified enzymatic analogue or a modified polypeptide fragment (a), (b) or (c).
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4. The cosmetic/dermatological composition as defined by Claim 3, comprising a polypeptide of human origin having aspartylglucosaminidase activity,

isolated and purified from the *stratum corneum* of the human epidermis and having an apparent molecular mass ranging from 10 to 50 kD.

5. The cosmetic/dermatological composition as defined by Claim 4, said apparent molecular mass ranging from 15 to 48 kD.
6. The cosmetic/dermatological composition as defined by Claim 5, said apparent molecular mass ranging from 15 to 24 kD.
- 10 7. The cosmetic/dermatological composition as defined by Claim 1, said at least one hydrolase polypeptide having amidase activity comprising a polypeptide of natural origin.
- 15 8. The cosmetic/dermatological composition as defined by Claim 1, said at least one hydrolase polypeptide having amidase activity comprising a recombinant polypeptide.
- 19 9. The cosmetic/dermatological composition as defined by Claim 1, said at least one hydrolase polypeptide having amidase activity comprising from 10^{-6} to 5 % by weight thereof.
- 25 10. The cosmetic/dermatological composition as defined by Claim 1, said at least one hydrolase polypeptide having amidase activity comprising from 10^{-4} to 1 % by weight thereof.
11. The cosmetic/dermatological composition as defined by Claim 1, said at least one hydrolase polypeptide having amidase activity comprising from 0.001% to 0.1%.

12. The cosmetic/dermatological composition as defined by Claim 1, said at least one product capable of modulating the activity of said at least one hydrolase polypeptide comprising an activator that stimulates the activity of said hydrolase polypeptide.

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13. The cosmetic/dermatological composition as defined by Claim 12, said activator comprising from 0.01% to 50% by weight thereof.

10 14. The cosmetic/dermatological composition as defined by Claim 12, said activator comprising from 0.1% to 1% by weight thereof.

15 15. A topically applicable cosmetic/dermatological composition comprising (i) at least one hydrolase polypeptide having amidase activity, or precursor thereof, and (ii) at least one activator of said at least one hydrolase polypeptide (i), formulated into (iii) a topically applicable, physiologically acceptable medium therefor.

16. The cosmetic/dermatological composition as defined by Claim 15, further comprising at least one other desquamating agent.

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17. The cosmetic/dermatological composition as defined by Claim 16, further comprising at least one β -hydroxy acid; α -hydroxy acid; α - or β -keto acid; urea; gentisic acid; oligofucoses; cinnamic acid; Saphora japonica extract; resveratrol or derivative thereof; glycosidase, *stratum corneum* chymotryptic enzyme (SCCE) or other serine or cysteine protease; chelating agent; aminosulphonic compound; sugar derivative; reducing agent and/or retinoid.

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18. The cosmetic/dermatological composition as defined by Claim 1, said at least one product capable of modulating the activity of said at least one hydrolase polypeptide comprising an inhibitor of the activity of said hydrolase polypeptide.
- 5 19. The cosmetic/dermatological composition as defined by Claim 18, said inhibitor comprising from $10^{-6}\%$ to 5% by weight thereof.
20. The cosmetic/dermatological composition as defined by Claim 18, said inhibitor comprising from 0.1% to 1% by weight thereof.
- 10 21. The cosmetic/dermatological composition as defined by Claim 1, further comprising at least one moisturizing agent; propigmenting agent; agent stimulating the synthesis of dermal or epidermal macromolecules and/or preventing the degradation thereof; agent stimulating the proliferation or differentiation of keratinocytes; relaxing agent; antipollution and/or anti-free radical agent; UV-screening agent; permeating agent; cicatrizing agent; and mixtures thereof.
- 15 22. A regime or regimen for the treatment of dry skin, for combating skin desquamation and/or for promoting cell renewal of the epidermis and/or for promoting hydration of the skin and/or for promoting cell proliferation and/or differentiation in the skin, comprising topically applying onto the skin, mucous membranes and/or keratinous fibers of an individual in need of such treatment, thus effective amounts of (i) at least one hydrolase polypeptide having amidase activity, or precursor thereof, and (ii) at least one product capable of modulating the activity of said at least one hydrolase polypeptide (i).
- 20 23. A regime or regimen for the treatment of sensitive and/or aged skin, for enhancing the barrier effect thereof, comprising topically applying onto the skin, mucous membranes and/or keratinous fibers of an individual in need of such
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treatment, thus effective amounts of (i) at least one hydrolase polypeptide having amidase activity, or precursor thereof, and (ii) at least one inhibitor of the activity of said hydrolase polypeptide.

- 5 24. A regime or regimen for the treatment of hyperkeratosis, xerosis, ichtyosis, psoriasis or reactive keratosis, comprising topically applying onto the skin, mucous membranes and/or keratinous fibers of an individual in need of such treatment, thus effective amounts of (i) at least one hydrolase polypeptide having amidase activity, or precursor thereof, and (ii) at least one activator of said at least one hydrolase polypeptide (i).
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- 15 25. A regime or regimen for promoting cicatrization, comprising topically applying onto the skin, mucous membranes and/or keratinous fibers of an individual in need of such treatment, thus effective amounts of (i) at least one hydrolase polypeptide having amidase activity, or precursor thereof, and (ii) at least one activator of said at least one hydrolase polypeptide (i).
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- 25 26. A regime or regimen for the treatment of atopic dermatitis, comprising topically applying onto the skin, mucous membranes and/or keratinous fibers of an individual in need of such treatment, a thus effective amount of at least one inhibitor of a hydrolase polypeptide having amidase activity.
27. A regime or regimen for promoting desquamation and/or hydration of the skin and/or cell renewal in the skin and/or cell proliferation and/or differentiation in the skin of an individual in need of such treatment, comprising topically applying thereon thus effective amounts of (i) at least one hydrolase polypeptide having amidase activity, or precursor thereof, and (ii) at least one activator of said at least one hydrolase polypeptide (i).

28. A regime or regimen for facilitating the penetration into the skin of a cosmetic/dermatological active agent, comprising, therewith, topically applying thereon thus effective amounts of (i) at least one hydrolase polypeptide having amidase activity, or precursor thereof, and (ii) at least one activator of said at least 5 one hydrolase polypeptide (i).
29. A regime or regimen for combating bacterial adhesion to the skin, comprising topically applying onto the skin of an individual in need of such treatment, thus effective amounts of (i) at least one hydrolase polypeptide having amidase activity, or precursor thereof, and (ii) at least one activator of said at least 10 one hydrolase polypeptide (i).
30. A package confining (i) at least one hydrolase polypeptide having amidase activity, or precursor thereof, and (ii) at least one product capable of modulating 15 the activity of said at least one hydrolase polypeptide (i), each of said hydrolase polypeptide (i) and modulator (ii) being packaged in separate compartments thereof, each not physically in contact with the other.
31. The package as defined by Claim 30, said modulator (ii) comprising an 20 activator of said at least one hydrolase polypeptide.